

delays for emergency medical transportation to the primary trauma care center in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

Whereas, the new Inner Harbor Navigation Canal lock proposed by the Corps of Engineers will be located on the north side of Claiborne Avenue; and

Whereas, considering that this new lock will accommodate fifteen large river barges or a nine hundred to twelve hundred foot-long, deep-draft ocean vessel as compared to the existing lock, which can hold only four barges or a deep-draft vessel of six hundred feet or less; and

Whereas, the longer tows and deep-draft vessels will require that both the St. Claude and Claiborne Avenue bridges remain open for longer periods to permit passage and that the Claiborne Avenue Bridge must be opened much more frequently than at present because of the location of the new lock; and

Whereas, the tows and larger deep-draft vessels must be moved at slower speeds, as compared to vessels currently using the lock, which will further extend the required bridge openings; and

Whereas, after analysis, it appears that such required bridge openings will occur six times per day and each will cause at least a three-mile long traffic jam which will create grave hardships for the St. Bernard Parish and Orleans Parish residents as well as all others who are among the eighty-five thousand motorists who use these bridges each day; and

Whereas, the United States Corps of Engineers' traffic study included in the project evaluation report appears to be based upon data which might lead to serious incorrect conclusions and that said study was used as the basis for the selection of the new bridge for St. Claude Avenue and the revisions now proposed for the Claiborne Avenue Bridge; and

Whereas, the magnitude of the traffic problem and the possibility that an erroneous selection of bridges may one day require the state of Louisiana to completely fund necessary corrections to this federal project are concerns of the legislature. Therefore be it

Resolved, that the Louisiana Legislature does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take all steps necessary to replace the proposed St. Claude Avenue Bridge (LA 49) and the Claiborne Avenue Bridge (LA 39), in conjunction with the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock Replacement Project, with tunnels or fixed, high-rise bridges to benefit residents of St. Bernard, Orleans, and Plaquemines parishes and the maritime industry and to withhold all future funding of the lock replacement project until the matter is reviewed and resolved by qualified members of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the United States Coast Guard, and local representatives of the barge transportation industry; and be it further

Resolved, that the Louisiana Legislature requests our federal elected officials to request the United States Army Corps of Engineers to consider tunnels or fixed high-rise bridges, which are the canal crossing solutions preferred for this project by both the shipping industry and state motorists because either would eliminate the need for bridge curfews and provide for the uninterrupted flow of marine and vehicular traffic; and be it further

Resolved, that the Louisiana Legislature memorializes the United States Congress to make resumption of federal funding for this project contingent on the completion of a traffic study and that the project evaluation

report be rewritten to include such crossings if warranted by the traffic study review; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-122. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to Maurepas Swamp diversion from the Mississippi River; to the Committee on Appropriations.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 86

Whereas, many of the swamps, marshes, and estuarine ecosystems of the southeastern part of Louisiana were created by the Mississippi River and were nourished by the freshwater sediment and nutrients from the river; and

Whereas, these ecosystems have been declining since the river was levied for flood control and navigation which deprived them of the river's nourishment; and

Whereas, freshwater, diversion has become an important tool in restoring coastal wetlands and combating erosion and saltwater intrusion; and

Whereas, a river diversion into the Maurepas Swamp and Lake Maurepas has been proposed which would introduce fresh water and sediment directly into the swamp, an area where the forests are ailing from lack of nutrients and sediments; and

Whereas, such a river diversion into the Maurepas Swamp would also combat saltwater intrusion on the fringes of the area and help sustain and restore marshes that are now dying, subsiding, and breaking up; and

Whereas, a diversion located at the Hope Canal near Garyville could be designed to encourage water to fan out over a very broad area allowing the swamp to assimilate the river's nutrients and sediments, therefore minimizing the threat of algal blooms in lake Maurepas; and

Whereas, on occasion of heavy local rains, the diversion structure could be closed and the canal would then help to convey storm water runoff which is an aspect of the project that is very appealing to St. John the Baptist Parish officials concerned about flood control; and

Whereas, the issues that have been encountered in the operation of other diversion projects, such as dramatic changes in salinity that have concerned oyster growers and commercial fishermen, should not be a problem with the Maurepas Swamp diversion because the area directly influenced by the diversion is essentially a freshwater estuarine system: Therefore, be it

Resolved that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to support, with funding, the expeditious implementation of the proposed Maurepas Swamp diversion from the Mississippi River; and be it further

Resolved that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. BREAU, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KYL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 1087. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a shorter recovery period of the depreciation of certain leasehold improvements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 1088. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to facilitate the use of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill for education leading to employment in high technology industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 1089. A bill to amend section 7253 of title 38, United States Code, to expand temporarily the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in order to further facilitate staggered terms for judges on that court, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 1090. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2001, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 1091. A bill to amend section 1116 of title 38, United States Code, to modify and extend authorities on the presumption of service-connection for herbicide-related disabilities of Vietnam era veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GRAMM:

S. 1092. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt feed truck chassis from excise tax on heavy trucks and trailers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 1093. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to exclude certain income from annual income determinations for pension purposes, to limit provision of benefits for fugitive and incarcerated veterans, to increase the home loan guaranty amount for construction and purchase of homes, to modify and enhance other authorities relating to veterans' benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1094. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research, information, and education with respect to blood cancer; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. REID):

S.J. Res. 17. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the President relating to the restoration of the Mexico City Policy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.